United Nations A/70/1009–S/2016/691

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
9 August 2016

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General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 35
Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Identical letters dated 8 August 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, dated 7 August 2016, regarding the eighth anniversary of the August 2008 war (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vakhtang **Makharoblishvili**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

16-13808 (E) 170816

Please recycle

Annex to the identical letters dated 8 August 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the eighth anniversary of the August 2008 war

7 August 2016 marks the eighth anniversary of Russia's large-scale military intervention and aggression against Georgia. Since then, Russia has continued an illegal occupation of the regions of the sovereign and independent State, in violation of international law, as well as the commitments of the 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement.

Eight years after the August 2008 war, as a result of the pragmatic approach of the Georgian Government, the risk of escalation of the conflict is significantly decreased, however the security and humanitarian situation in the occupied territories remains grave. Fortifying the occupation line by razor and barbed wire fences and the so-called "border" signs became a practice. These destructive actions are exacerbated by the abductions and illegal detentions of Georgian citizens. Hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons and refugees are still denied the right to safe and dignified return to the places of their original residence, while the remaining population in the occupied regions suffers from permanent ethnic discrimination. A clear illustration of that is the prohibition of education in their native language and the gross violations of the right to freedom of movement and property, which create the risk of a new wave of ethnic cleansing in the occupied regions. Moreover, Moscow launched the factual annexation process of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions, integrating them into Russia's military, economic and social systems, which flagrantly infringes the fundamental principles of international law.

Despite Russia's provocative steps, the Government of Georgia firmly follows the peaceful conflict resolution policy. Georgia remains committed to active engagement in the Geneva International Discussions, aimed at resolving the outstanding security and humanitarian issues between Georgia and Russia in accordance with the 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement. The Government of Georgia will further continue its rational policy towards Russia and will use all available diplomatic and political tools to resolve the conflict through peaceful means. Besides, the Government will spare no efforts to create favourable conditions for reconciliation between the war-torn communities and stay open to share the benefits of Georgia's European agenda with the people living beyond the occupation line.

Amid the ongoing occupation of the regions and serious security challenges, Georgia managed to succeed in its democratic transition and sustainable economic development, steadily moving along the path of its European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations.

Georgia expresses its gratitude to the international community for the firm and unwavering support to its sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Georgian side calls upon the international community to further consolidate the efforts in responding to the consequences of the August 2008 war and for the peaceful resolution of the conflict in Georgia, in compliance with international law.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expresses its deepest sympathy to the families of the soldiers and civilian population who fell victim to the August 2008 war, as well as to the entirety of Georgia.

United Nations A/70/1010–S/2016/661

General Assembly
Security Council

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10 August 2016

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General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 34 (b)
Prevention of armed conflict: strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 28 July 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the decision of the President of the Russian Federation of 28 July 2016 aimed at the inclusion of the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol into the Southern Federal District of the Russian Federation (see annex).

This decision is null and void and does not create any legal consequences for the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, as well as internationally recognized borders of Ukraine.

I would appreciate your having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34 (b), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

16-13864 (E) 120816

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 28 July 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the "inclusion" of the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol into the Southern Federal District of the Russian Federation

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine strongly protests against the "inclusion" of the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol into the Southern Federal District of the Russian Federation.

This decision is null and void and neither creates any legal consequences nor influences the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, as well as internationally recognized borders of Ukraine.

The occupying State continues to blatantly neglect the Charter of the United Nations, General Assembly resolution 68/262, entitled "Territorial integrity of Ukraine", the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, the Memorandum on Security Assurances in Connection with Ukraine's Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Budapest Memorandum), its obligations under the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Ukraine and the Russian Federation of 1997 and other norms of international law.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine calls again on the Russian Federation to revert to implementation of its international obligations and to stop aggression and illegal occupation of the part of the sovereign territory of Ukraine.

United Nations A/70/1011–S/2016/690

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 34 (b)
Prevention of armed conflict: strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 8 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the eighth anniversary of the Russian aggression against Georgia (see annex).

Eight years ago, the Russian Federation started its military aggression against Georgia on the very first day of the 2008 Olympic Games. Two years ago, during the 2014 Olympic Games, the Russian Federation started its military aggression against Ukraine, which became the major crisis in Europe since the Second World War. These actions by the Russian Federation proved that the Kremlin did not just disregard the principles of the Olympic Truce strongly promoted by the United Nations, but also once again blatantly violated the Charter of the United Nations, international law and its international obligations. Ukraine calls upon the international community to consolidate efforts and increase pressure on Russia until its complete cessation of any aggression against neighbouring States.

I would appreciate your having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34 (b), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

16-13874 (E) 160816

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 8 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the eighth anniversary of the Russian aggression against Georgia

7 August marks eight years since the Russian Federation unleashed war against Georgia, which resulted in the Russian occupation of a significant part of the territory of a sovereign country.

Since the international community has not given a strong and unequivocal response to the Russian aggression against Georgia, the Russian Federation has chosen the next target — Ukraine.

The occupation of the regions of Georgia, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol and the ongoing Russian aggression in Donbas prove that Russia continues to blatantly violate the Charter of the United Nations, international law and its international obligations and threatens Euro-Atlantic peace and security.

Ukraine confirms its full respect for the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders and calls upon the international community to consolidate efforts and increase pressure on Russia until its complete cessation of any aggression against neighbouring States.

United Nations A/70/1012–S/2016/696

General Assembly
Security Council

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10 August 2016

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General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 69 (a)
Rights of indigenous peoples

Security Council
Seventieth year

Letter dated 9 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the occasion of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 69 (a), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

16-13876 (E) 170816

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 9 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the occasion of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

On 9 August 2016, Ukraine, along with the international community, marks the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

Reaffirming its commitment to the principles of respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, as expressed, in particular, in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Ukraine guarantees the preservation and promotion of ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of all national minorities of the country.

Ukraine guarantees the protection and enjoyment of the inherent right to self-determination of the Crimean Tatar people within the sovereign and independent Ukrainian State and recognizes Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people, the executive body of the Kurultai of the Crimean Tatar people, as the competent authority of the Crimean Tatars.

Ukraine once again draws the world's attention to the facts regarding systemic pressure on the Crimean Tatars, of reprisals against the Ukrainian citizens on the ground of nationality and of the organization of ethnically and politically motivated persecutions in the temporarily occupied part of the territory of Ukraine by the State authorities of the Russian Federation, which started from the date of the temporary occupation of Crimea and which embody a conscious policy of the ethnocide of the Crimean Tatars.

We call on the international community to condemn the actions of the occupying authorities, to make necessary efforts to protect the Crimean Tatars from discrimination and harassment by the Russian Federation and to prevent the occurrence of the genocide of the Crimean Tatar people, who have already experienced the tragedy of forced deportation 70 years ago.

We are convinced that all those responsible for the occupation and the illegal attempt to annex Crimea, as well as for systematic and widespread violations of human rights in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine, will be brought to justice.

Ukraine will not cease to exert its utmost efforts for the complete de-occupation of the territory of Crimea and for the restoration of sovereignty and territorial integrity, and calls on the partners to reinforce their pressure on the invading country.

United Nations A/70/1013–S/2016/697

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
10 August 2016

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General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 44
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 8 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 4 August 2016 addressed to you by Yasa Yeşilada, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Office of the Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 44, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Y. Halit **Çevik**
Permanent Representative

16-13953 (E) 160816

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 8 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing in response to the letter dated 19 July 2016 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative in New York and circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council (A/70/994-S/2016/628), which yet again contains false assertions similar to those made in his previous letters. In order to set the record straight, I would like to bring the following to your kind attention.

At the outset, regarding the claims of so-called "infringements of international air traffic regulations and violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey", I wish, once again, to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the relevant authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever. The civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the sole competent authority on provision of air traffic and aeronautical information services within its own national airspace. As for the false assertions regarding the "illegally issued notices to airmen", it must be underlined that activities within the Ercan advisory airspace that require notices to airmen are carried out by or coordinated with the relevant authorities of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in accordance with article 3 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention).

Similarly, the claim in the letter regarding the Turkish Cypriot ports is also baseless, given the fact that the Greek Cypriot administration has no jurisdiction or right of say over Northern Cyprus. Furthermore, this claim ignores the present realities on the ground, namely, the existence of two independent self-governing States on the island of Cyprus, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within its respective territory.

As to the repeated false allegations regarding Ercan Airport in the north, it should once again be underlined that the technologically up-to-date Ercan area control centre and airport in North Cyprus have been providing regular, reliable and safe air traffic services since the Greek Cypriot refusal in 1977 to provide air traffic services in the northern part of the island, in line with its isolationist policy which has been imposed on the Turkish Cypriot people. Ever since, all flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus have taken place with the full knowledge and permission of the Civil Aviation Department of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or control.

Moreover, the isolation imposed on the Turkish Cypriots, which the Greek Cypriot side attempts to perpetuate by encouraging the international community to deem all airports and seaports in Northern Cyprus "illegal", is in complete contravention of international law, as well as the call made by the then Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, in his report to the Security Council dated 28 May 2004 (S/2004/437), in which he clearly states:

> I would hope that they [the members of the Security Council] can give a strong lead to all States to cooperate both bilaterally and in international bodies to eliminate unnecessary restrictions and barriers that have the effect of isolating

the Turkish Cypriots and impeding their development, deeming such a move as consistent with Security Council resolutions 541 (1983) and 550 (1984).

The legislation of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus on aeronautical safety satisfies all standards and recommendations of the International Civil Aviation Organization, providing for safe and swift navigation of aircraft landing at or taking off from Ercan Airport and using airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. All airports in Northern Cyprus operate in full conformity with international standards, and necessary investments have been made to keep up with the developing technology. The number of air traffic controllers has been increased in accordance with the increasing number of flights over the years, and the Ercan area control centre operates in regular and close cooperation with the Ankara area control centre in order to ensure the safe conduct of all flights in the region. In 2015 alone, the number of passengers who used Ercan Airport stood at nearly 3,500,000 (compared with 3,250,000 in 2014), while a 7 per cent increase in that number is expected in 2016. Moreover, in 2015, nearly 26,000 planes used Ercan Airport for arrival and departure, and about 210,000 planes used the Ercan advisory airspace, a total figure that is expected to increase by 7 per cent in 2016. In that respect, it must be stressed that the Turkish Cypriot side is committed to upholding the highest standards in the field of air navigation safety in full conformity with the Chicago Convention of 1944, and that it is ready to cooperate with the Greek Cypriot authorities on this very important issue.

At a time when the comprehensive settlement negotiations are progressing swiftly in a results-oriented atmosphere, I deem it necessary to stress the need to fully channel all of our efforts towards achieving a just and lasting settlement of the Cyprus conflict in line with the established United Nations parameters and the Joint Declaration of 11 February 2014, which envisage a new partnership on the basis of the political equality of the two peoples of the island within the framework of a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation with two constituent States of equal status. Moreover, the Greek Cypriot administration should once again be reminded that its counterpart is, and has always been, the Turkish Cypriot side, not Turkey.

Availing myself of the present opportunity, I would like to call upon the Greek Cypriot side to discontinue the use of such counterproductive and outdated rhetoric, which is not reflective of the joint vision and cooperation promoted by the leaders of both communities on the island since the resumption of the settlement talks in May 2015. As the two future partners on the island of Cyprus, we should never lose sight of the fact that the solution of the Cyprus problem will deal comprehensively with all pending issues affecting the two sides and thus should focus all of our efforts on the ultimate goal of settlement.

Finally, I would like to reiterate that we, the Turkish Cypriot side, are committed to maintaining our constructive and positive stance within the context of your good offices mission in Cyprus and encourage our Greek Cypriot neighbours to follow a similar path.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 44, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yasa **Yeşilada**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

United Nations A/70/1014–S/2016/702

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Security Council

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12 August 2016

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General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 34 (b)
Prevention of armed conflict: strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution

Security Council
Seventieth year

Letter dated 10 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on yet another Kremlin-manufactured provocation (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34 (b), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

16-14040 (E) 170816

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 10 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on yet another Kremlin-manufactured provocation

10 August 2016

Ukraine condemns in the strongest terms yet another Kremlin-manufactured provocation and rejects all accusations, which are completely groundless. Under a made-up pretext, the Kremlin is undertaking another hybrid special operation with the aim of justifying its future aggressive actions against Ukraine.

The concentration of Russian weaponry, armaments and military forces in the temporarily occupied territories in Crimea and Donbas as well as along the Ukrainian-Russian border is a cause of particular concern. This situation signals an imminent threat to the peace and stability not only in Ukraine, but also in the entire region. The occupying Power does not limit itself to daily shellings in Donbas, but also uses staged acts of sabotage in Crimea in an attempt to shift responsibility for its own destructive actions to Ukraine and our partners.

Ukraine resolutely and consistently condemns terrorism in all its manifestations. Against this background, it should be recalled that since the beginning of the Russian aggression against Ukraine in February 2014, thousands have lost their lives — both Ukrainians and foreign nationals — as a result of terrorist acts carried out with the financial, material and technical support of the aggressor State. In particular, it is worth recalling the downing of flight MH17 and the rocket attacks against Volnovakha, Mariupol, Kramatorsk and other peaceful Ukrainian cities and towns.

Ukraine urges the international community to take all possible political and diplomatic steps to exert influence on the Kremlin in order to prevent a new round of aggression against Ukraine and the ultimate disruption of the Minsk peace process by the Kremlin.

United Nations A/70/1015–S/2016/703

General Assembly
Security Council

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15 August 2016
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General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 72 (c)
Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Identical letters dated 11 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to inform you that the Syrian Government rejects the allegations contained in the identical letters from the Permanent Representatives of Colombia, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America to the United Nations (A/70/986-S/2016/537). I should like to draw your attention to the following:

I. Many of signatories to the above-mentioned letter are representatives of regimes that, since the beginning of the crisis in Syria, have provided all manner of support to the armed terrorist groups in Syria. Those States have also tried to confer legitimacy on these groups by calling them at first "the moderate opposition", then "the moderate armed opposition", and finally "non-State armed groups". Some of those groups, such as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the Nusrah Front, have been listed as terrorist groups by the Security Council. Others have been kept off the list by certain influential States on the Security Council, even though they display all the hallmarks of terrorist groups, such as the Ahrar al-Sham movement, the Soldiers of al-Aqsa, the Islamic Front, the Soldiers of the Levant, the Islamic Turkmen party, the Army of Islam, the Green Battalion, the Suqur al-Izz Battalion, the Army of Muhammad and the Nur al-Din Zanki movement, which recently beheaded a Palestinian-Syrian child refugee who was less than 12 years old. The actions of that terrorist organization are no less criminal than those of any of the other terrorist groups that some still insist on calling "the moderate opposition". Since the beginning of the crisis in Syria, those groups have carried out bloodcurdling crimes, including eating livers, throwing civilians from tall buildings, mutilating bodies, and plundering entire villages and taking their women and children captive.

II. We share the letter's very proper sentiment, albeit expressed with intent to deceive, of concern "at the ongoing grave humanitarian situation in Syria, the continued violations of the cessation of hostilities, the lack of protection of civilians". However, we feel obliged to identify the real causes of the current situation. Why have humanitarian conditions in certain parts of Syria sunk to such a low level? Who are the parties that are violating the cessation of hostilities? Who is behind them and who is supporting them? Who are the parties that are flouting all instruments and laws on the protection of civilians? We answer as follows:

- The humanitarian situation in certain parts of Syria has deteriorated owing to the influx of thousands of terrorist mercenaries from across the Turkish border. Those mercenaries are supported by Saudi Arabia and Qatar with weapons, money and takfirist fatwas that justify killing children and raping women. The Turkish Government makes its territory available for camps where the terrorists are trained by officers from the United States, France, the United Kingdom, Turkey and Jordan in the use of various types of weapons. They are then brought into Syria where they run rampant in certain areas, terrorizing civilian inhabitants and using them as human shields.

- The armed terrorist groups and their backers are, first and foremost, responsible for the "violations of the cessation of hostilities". From day one of the agreement, they have rained hundreds of shells and rockets down on cities and peaceable residential neighbourhoods, leaving behind hundreds of dead and injured. Some people are wilfully forgetting that Muhammad Alloush, the man put forward by the States supporting the terrorist groups as the chief negotiator for the Syrian opposition in Geneva, was the person who, in the middle of intra-Syrian talks that were supposed to lead to a settlement between the Syrian factions, called openly for suspension of the cessation of hostilities agreement, reopening of the battlefronts, bombing of cities and attacks on the Syrian Army.

- The prescription for resolving the Syrian crisis is well known to all States. It lies in stamping out terrorism and taking on those who support, finance, promote and hand down fatwas justifying it. We remind the Member States that although the Security Council has adopted numerous counter-terrorism resolutions under Chapter VII, notably resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015), the Council has not taken a single step to implement them, because if the measures called for in those resolutions were to be implemented, the first States affected would be those that have decades-long alliances with certain influential Security Council members. That includes the Turkish regime, which has set up the camps in its territory where terrorists are trained before being sent into Syria to kill Syrians and destroy infrastructure, and, more importantly, the Saudi Arabian regime, which is the spiritual father of extremist terrorist organizations such as Al-Qaida, ISIL, Boko Haram and many others that take inspiration from the Wahhabi creed upon which the Al Saud regime was founded.

- It is ironic that the signatories to the above-mentioned letters should state that "it is incomprehensible to our Governments that people in Syria continue to be subjected to unconscionable violence of a historic scale". We say to the representatives of those regimes that it is the Syrian people in their entirety, the great and the small, who are asking why over 110 States have conspired

from the start of the crisis to subject them to unconscionable violence of a historic scale. It does not take research centres or in-depth studies to understand that the cause of the violence is the terrorism that certain States have supported with tens billions of dollars and tens of thousands of mercenary foreign terrorists. Nor do those States stop at that particular variety of terrorism. They combine it with a vicious economic terrorism perpetuated through coercive unilateral measures that have compounded the suffering of the Syrian people still further.

III. The Syrian Government reaffirms its commitment to delivering humanitarian assistance to persons affected by the crisis in all Syrian governorates, without discrimination, and to cooperating with the United Nations and international agencies engaged in humanitarian work in Syria to see to it that such assistance is delivered in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the rules of international law and the guiding principles for humanitarian emergency assistance set forth in General Assembly resolution 46/182, in particular respect for national sovereignty and the role of the State in supervising the distribution of humanitarian assistance within its territory.

IV. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms its long-standing position that the crisis in Syria requires a political solution based on intra-Syrian dialogue under Syrian leadership and without preconditions. It further stresses that the political approach goes hand in hand with counter-terrorism efforts, which will continue until all of the armed terrorist groups active in Syria have been eradicated.

V. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic once again calls on the Security Council to compel those States that support and finance armed terrorist groups to refrain from doing so, in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions on countering terrorism and the financing thereof, particularly resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015). Compliance with and enforcement of those resolutions is the key to resolving the situation in Syria and delivering an unprecedented amount of humanitarian assistance to those in need in Syria.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 72 (c), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative